

OBITUARY NOTICES.

By the death of Colonel Richard Henry Beddome, F.L.S., this Society has lost one of its original members. As a conchologist he was particularly distinguished among those who collected in Peninsular India. For twenty-five years he was in the Forest Department, having been appointed to it in 1857 by Dr. Cleghorn, Conservator, Captain Beddome being his chief assistant, and for twenty-two years he was the superintendent. His departmental tours gave him splendid opportunities for collecting in many branches of Natural History in the then little-known hill ranges and forests of Central and Southern India, opportunities of which he took the fullest advantage, as shown by the number of new species he discovered, not only of the land mollusca but of mammals and reptiles, and by valuable notes respecting their geographical distribution, which led to association with Dr. W. T. Blanford, Dr. T. C. Jerdon, and many other naturalists working in that part of India.

Colonel Beddome, however, was essentially a botanist, and in the study of the flora of Southern India he devoted the best days of his life, the result of which was the publication of quite a series of valuable works containing figures of numberless species, the drawings being executed with great fidelity by the native draughtsmen he had trained to the work.

Some of his botanical publications are as follow :—

Trees of the Madras Presidency, 1863; *Flora Sylvatica for Southern India*, 1869-73; *Ferns of Southern India*, 1873; *Ferns of British India*, 1876; *Forester's Manual of Botany for Southern India*, 1869-74; *Icones Plantarum Indiæ Orientalis*, 1874; *Handbook of the Ferns of British India, Ceylon, and the Malay Peninsula*, 1883 (Supplement, 1892).

On Reptilia and Batrachians he wrote no less than fifteen papers, most valuable contributions to their study.

The following is a complete list of his papers on Mollusca :—

1. "Descriptions of some new Operculated Land-shells from Southern India and Ceylon," 1875.
2. "Descriptions of Land-shells from the Island of Koror, Pelew Group," 1889.
3. "Descriptions of some new Land-shells from the Indian Region," 1891.
4. "Notes on Indian and Ceylonese species of *Glossula*," 1906.
5. "Descriptions of *Labyrinthus euclausus* and *Neocyclotus Belli*, n.spp., from Colombia," 1908.

In conjunction with myself—

6. "New species of *Cyclophorus* and a *Spiraculum* from the Khasi and Naga Hills, Assam."

Beddome formed a fine collection of land shells from India and other parts of the world, among which the operculates, especially the minute forms, were, I think, his favourites.

I feel this notice is late in its appearance, but had it come out earlier I could not have put on record, which I do with considerable pleasure, and it will I am sure be shared by the fellows of this Society, that all the Indian types and rarer Indian species in the

Beddome Collection will find a resting-place in the Natural History Museum alongside species found by Benson, many made by Henry and William Blanford, Theobald, myself, and others. This will make the collection from India and adjacent countries almost complete and wonderfully rich in types. For this generous gift we have to thank his widow, who, having a deep interest in what it took hours and hours of her husband's life to bring together, desired to see it placed where it would be most appreciated and helpful to those engaged in malacological and conchological investigations. This is quite what Colonel Beddome would have desired, for I know that in the preparation of the Mollusca volume of the "Fauna of British India" Beddome placed his collection at the disposal of Dr. Blanford and assisted him in every way.

Colonel Beddome's death on the 23rd February, 1911, was sudden and quite unexpected by his conchological friends. He attended the Council Meeting of this Society on 20th January, and I met him just before it began, and we talked over a new species of *Oxytes* he had just received from Burma and which is now named after him. He was the eldest son of Richard Boswell Brandon Beddome, solicitor, of Clapham Common, S.W., and was born 12th May, 1830, so was in his 81st year. He was educated at Charterhouse School, and Hart's Army List gives the following dates of his commissions: Ensign 20th January, 1848; Lieutenant 15th November, 1853; Captain 18th February, 1861; Major 20th January, 1868; Lieut. Colonel 20th January, 1874; Colonel 20th January, 1879. I have been able to glean that he first studied for the legal profession, but he could not get interested in it, and, preferring a life abroad, entered the Army in the Hon. East India Company's service. Obtaining a direct cadetship, and going out to India, he joined the 42nd Madras Native Infantry, and was with that regiment at Jabbalpur in 1856, being at that time Quartermaster and Interpreter of the regiment; from there he went to Secunderabad, and soon after his arrival at this station, about the end of the year 1856, he was appointed to the Madras Forest Department, and never again rejoined his regiment.

H. H. GODWIN-AUSTEN.